

Activity 4.2

Looking at policy impacts

All policy—whether personal, organizational or public—has an effect on someone.

In the exercise below, look at specific policies and examine their potential for affecting food security. Some examples of personal, organizational, and public policies are provided but you may also use your own examples.

1. Personal policies

- I try to buy only locally produced fruits and vegetables.
- I buy as much as I can from stores in my community and avoid buying food from big chains like Wal-Mart[®].

Discuss:

- What are my personal policies regarding food?
- What impact do my personal policies have on my own food security and that of others in my community?
- What are some barriers to carrying out a personal policy on food security?

2. Organizational policies

- Some major supermarket chains will not purchase a product from farmers or other food producers unless they can produce enough of the product to supply ALL of their stores.
- Schools sometimes earn money from selling exclusive rights to soft-drink manufacturers to sell their products in the school.
- Some food banks are open only during working hours which makes it difficult for people with jobs or students to get there.

Discuss:

- Who is affected by this policy?
- Why does the policy affect them?
- What is the impact—on individuals and communities?
- How does this policy affect food security?
- Can you think of other businesses or organizations with policies that affect food security?

3. Public policies

- Some municipal transportation policies result in little public transportation and more dependence on cars.
- Some provincial land use policies allow development of farmland for housing or other uses.
- Some provincial income assistance policies cut off income to women who seek higher education.
- Federal policies affecting the amount of transfer payments to provinces result in less funds for income assistance.

Discuss:

- How do these policies impact our food security—my own and my community's?
- What other public policies could impact on food security?